

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 132956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, WA, SF

SUBJECT: USG CONCERN OVER RECENT INCIDENTS IN NAMIBIA

REF: A. PRETORIA 1614, B. CAPE TOWN 468

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. IN VIEW OF OUR LONGSTANDING POLICY OF CONVEYING TO THE SAG OUR CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NAMIBIA, WE BELIEVE SAG SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF OUR CONCERN REGARDING THE APRIL 23 SHOOTING OF 11 OVAMBO WORKERS BY POLICE IN KATUTURA AND THE REPORTED BEATING OF A SWAPO OFFICIAL IN OVAMBOLAND BY POLICE, IF EMBASSY CAN CONFIRM
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JOHANNESBURG STAR MAY 31 ARTICLE.

2. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES OBJECTION, EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH DFA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO EXPRESS USG CONCERN OVER THESE INCIDENTS. REGARDING THE KATUTURA SHOOTING YOU SHOULD STATE THAT OUR CONCERN IS BASED ON DIFFERING VERSIONS OF THE INCIDENT AND ALSO ON PRESS REPORTS THAT WORKERS WERE WOUNDED IN THE SIDE AND BACK SEEMING TO INDICATE THAT WORKERS WERE RUNNING AWAY RATHER THAN ATTACKING POLICE WHEN SHOT. EMBASSY SHOULD ASK WHETHER AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT HAS

OR IS BEING CONDUCTED AND IF SO REQUEST THE RESULTS. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT SUCH INCIDENTS DO NOT PROMOTE STATED SAG EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BLACK-WHITE RELATIONS IN NAMIBIA.

3. REGARDING THE REPORTED BEATING OF SWAPO OVAMBOLAND SECRETARY SHIVUTE, EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION AND EXPRESS OUR CONCERN. THE BEATING, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES REPORTED IN THE PRESS, WOULD APPEAR TO BE A VIOLATION OF AN ORDER OF A SOUTH AFRICAN COURT FORBIDDING TRIBAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE FROM INTIMIDATING AND ASSAULTING SHIVUTE, AND A VIOLATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF INHABITANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL TERRITORY. HOW SERIOUSLY SUCH MATTERS ARE TO BE TAKEN IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE FEB. 24, 1975 JUDGMENT OF THE APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUPREME COURT BARRING THE ARREST, DETENTION OR PUNISHMENT OF ANY PERSON FOR BELONGING TO SWAPO OR FOR CARRYING OUT LAWFUL SWAPO ACTIVITIES. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THE SAG CANNOT EVADE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT IN VIEW OF THE SAG'S

DE FACTO CONTROL OF ALL OF NAMIBIA AND EXPRESS OUR POSITION THAT THE GUILTY PARTIES SHOULD BE SWIFTLY BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. KISSINGER

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